REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Takano (U.S. 2001/0041072). After traversing of the aforementioned claim rejections and amending of the claims, claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-34 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicant's Invention

The Applicant's invention is directed to an information storage method and the apparatus for performing the method. In the present invention, a server receives a storage request of an image data input by the input device as well as the input device location information. The server receives the image data and stores the image data into storage device. After that, the server transmits the completed information to the input device, wherein the completed information includes the storage location information, the access information for retrieving the image data from the storage device, the advertising information etc. More specifically, the access information further comprises a password for an authentication process in order to legally access the stored image data from the storage device.

Miscellaneous Issues

Claims 1, 6, 30, and 31 have been amended to add the word "itself" after the element "stored digital data". The added word "itself" is fully supported in the description of the present invention in paragraph [0034]:"...In addition, the storage location information that shows the location of the image data **itself** is preferred..." Therefore, no new matter is introduced as a result of the aforementioned claim amendments.

Furthermore, Claims 25 and 33 have been amended to add primarily the word "itself" after "a storage location of the digital data". The added word "itself" is also fully supported as discussed above. As a result, no new matter is introduced as a result of the aforementioned claim amendments.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Takano (U.S. 2001/0041072, hereafter Takano).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

It is well established that anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires each and every elements of the rejected claims must be disclosed exactly by a single prior art reference.

The independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 are allowable for at least the reason that Takano fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33. Claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 recite respectively:

Claim 1. An information storage method, comprising:

receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

storing the received digital data; and

transmitting access information for accessing **a storage location of the stored digital data itself** and a print instruction for printing the access information to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 6. An information storage method, comprising:

receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

storing the received digital data; and

transmitting access information for accessing **a storage location of the stored digital data itself** and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 25. A digital data processing method, comprising

inputting digital data;

transmitting the input digital data to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line; and

printing access information for accessing a **storage location of the digital data itself** on a print medium, the digital data being transmitted to and stored in the external device, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 30. An information storage apparatus, comprising

a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

a storing device that stores the digital data received by the receiving device; and

a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing **a storage location that stores the digital data itself** and a print instruction of the access information to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 31. An information storage apparatus, comprising:

a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;

a storing device that stores the received digital data; and

a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing **a storage location of the stored digital data itself** and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

Claim 33. A digital data processing apparatus, comprising

an inputting device that inputs digital data;

a transmitting device that transmits the digital data that is input from the inputting device to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line; and

a printing device that prints access information for accessing **a storage location of the digital data itself** on a print medium, the digital data being transmitted to and stored in the external device, wherein the access information includes **a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data.**

In the independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33, the claim limitation "**a password for an authentication process in order to access the stored digital data**" is patentable over Takano based upon the following traversal:

A) The element "password" in the above claim limitation carries the **full meaning** for "password" as is commonly used in the art. For example, the following "Implementing Guidelines for Strong Passwords" is taken from Microsoft:

http://www.microsoft.com/ntserver/techresources/security/password.asp

Posted Date: September 19, 1998

"Your password **must contain** characters from **at least 3** of the following 4 classes:"

Description	Examples
1. English Upper Case Letters	A, B, C, ... Z
2. English Lower Case Letters	a, b, c, ... z
3. Westernized Arabic Numerals	0, 1, 2, ... 9
4. Non-alphanumeric ("special characters")	For example, punctuation, symbols. ({}[],.<>;:'"?/|\` ~!@#$%^&*()_-+=)

On the other hand, Takano teaches of an "ID number". According to the common practice in the art and/or the typical need for sorting data sets according to a plurality of "ID numbers", an "ID number" is generally a set of characters which **do not include Non-alphanumeric "special characters" as in "{}[],.<>;:'"?/|\`~!@#$%^"** . Furthermore, it is **very rare, if at all,** that "ID numbers consist of characters from **both** upper case and lower case in the **very same** "ID number", as can be the case for "password".

B) As is fully supported in paragraphs [0120]-[0122] in the present invention, "Password" in the present invention is clearly used to authenticate a User, wherein upon authentication, the User is granted **access to a plurality** of data, and therefore, such access is **not limited** to **one** specific set of data. On the other hand, the "ID number" in Takano is used to verify permission **for a specific** set of image data, wherein upon verification, a User is granted access **only to that specific set** of image data corresponding to the "ID number", and

therefore, such access is **limited only to a specific set** of data in Takano as described in paragraphs [0012] & [0091]. In other words, "Password" grants access **to the User** in the present invention. Whereas, "ID number" grants access **to the specific data only.**

Based upon the above traversal, claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33, and therefore, Takano cannot possibly anticipate the claimed invention as claimed in the independent claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33 in this regard.

Furthermore, regarding amended claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33, the claim limitations "**a storage location of the stored digital data itself**" and "**a storage location of the digital data itself**" are patentable over Takano. It is because the "storage location" in Takano **is** " ...703 denotes a **home page address**..." as described in paragraph [0084] and FIG. 18 in Takano. As a person skilled in the art would typically appreciate, the "home page address" is **not the same as** "a storage location of the stored digital data itself" or "a storage location of the digital data itself".

Based upon the above traversal, claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31, and 33 are further patentable over Takano, and should be allowed.

Furthermore, claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9-18, 26-29 and 34, which depend from claims 1, 6, 25, 30 31 and 33 respectively, are also patentable over Takano, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

In addition, independent claims 19 and 32 are allowable for at least the reason that Takano fails to teach or disclose each and every features of the amended independent claims 19 and 32. As stated, claims 19 and 32 recite respectively:

Claim 19. An information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
storing the received digital data; and
transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and **advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line**.

Claim 32. An information storage apparatus, comprising:
a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
a storing device that stores the received digital data; and
a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and **advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line.**

Although the above claim limitations "transmitting .... advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line" and "a transmitting device that transmits ..... and advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line." were previously presented in the traversal in the response to office action, the Examiner had failed to provide an answer in the Office Action dated September 28, 2005. The Applicants would request the Examiner to respond to the traversal of the above claim limitations as described below:

(***Emphasis Added***) Applicants submit that the claims patently define over the prior art of record, for at least the reason that the prior arts fail to disclose at least these elements emphasized above.

More specifically, in the present invention, as shown in Fig. 5 together with Fig. 10, after the storage device stores the digital data, the access information together with the advertising

information is transmitted to the external device for being printed (paragraphs [0130], [0156], [0160], and [0161]).

Nevertheless, Takano **does not** teach that the advertising information can be **transmitted to an external device** and can be printed with the retrieved digital image data, as, for example, is taught in the present invention in paragraph [0022].

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that Takano fails to render claims 19 and 32 being anticipated. Claims 20-24, which depend from claim 19, are also patentable over Takano, at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectively requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-34 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS

Date: 1/27/2006

Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809